



SAN CONNECTIONS

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Contact for SAN CONNECTIONS: Chuck Kanetsky, EPA
215-814-2735, kanetsky.charles@epa.gov

2007 Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Symposium

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
IMPLEMENTATION MOVING
TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY**



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
October 17-18, 2007

Workshop: Oct. 16, 2007
Symposium: Oct. 17-18, 2007

MISSION STATEMENT: The purpose of the symposium is to advance the knowledge and understanding of sustainable stormwater management for those dealing in all aspects of planning, design, construction, maintenance and operations, and regulatory compliance. A half-day workshop for non-engineers will be held preceding the symposium.

QUESTIONS?

Professor Traver, 610-519-7899

Robert.Traver@villanova.edu

<http://www3.villanova.edu/VUSP/> ❖

Exelon Schuylkill Watershed Restoration Grants Announced

Three SAN partners have been chosen to receive grants totaling \$250,275 from the 2007 Exelon Schuylkill River Watershed Restoration Program:

Berks County Conservancy - \$98,500 to implement agricultural best management practices on 2 county farms located on Schuylkill River tributaries.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network - \$90,634 for streambank stabilization as well as the addition of riparian buffer, fencing, and cattle crossings on a Berks County farm located along Mill Creek.

Schuylkill Headwaters Association - \$61,141 to upgrade 3 abandoned/acid mine drainage remediation systems in the headwaters of the Schuylkill River in Schuylkill County.

The announcement took place at the Harold Adam Farm in Hamburg, which received a grant during the first year of the program in 2006. The farm has made improvements such as the addition of cattle crossings, streambank fencing, and riparian buffers. The project highlights how implementing these agricultural best management practices can effectively reduce detrimental runoff to a receiving stream.

This grant program resulted from an innovative 2004 DRBC agreement with Exelon, approving their application to demonstrate operational flexibility regarding consumptive cooling water needs at Exelon's nuclear-powered plant. This grant program is a collaborative effort among Exelon and the SAN partners ❖

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SAN AMD Workgroup Takes a Field Trip!

As SAN Workgroup members, we spend many hours discussing the impact of abandoned mine drainage on the waters of the Schuylkill. Unfortunately (or fortunately), many of us have never been in a mine. Dan Koury had a wonderful idea — he suggested having a field trip to a former mine to give us a better idea of how water enters and passes thru a mine. The mine we toured was the No. 9 mine in Lansford, PA. It's well worth a day trip if you are in the area. And now, we have a better understanding of the abandoned mine problem. ❖



More About the No. 9 Coal Mine

Opened in 1855, the No. 9 Coal Mine, located in Lansford, Pennsylvania is the world's oldest continuously operated anthracite coal mine. Closed in 1972, the mine was re-opened as a heritage tourism attraction in 2002. Today visitors ride safely by train 1600 feet into the mountainside to see and experience first-hand what it was like for our ancestors to work underground over the past 200 years.

Once inside the mine, experienced tour guides will lead you on a walking tour filled with amazing sights and fascinating stories! See the underground mule-way; miner's hospital, and the 900 foot deep original elevator shaft, which once hauled loaded coal cars to the surface. A visit inside No. 9 Mine is an experience that you will never forget! ❖

Mile-Long Fish Kill in Skippack Creek

In the early morning of August 10, 2007 an equipment failure at the MOPAC rendering plant in Franconia, Montgomery County, resulted in the release of an unknown quantity of untreated wastewater that impacted aquatic health in the Skippack Creek.

“This release of wastewater has resulted in a fish kill throughout a mile-long section of the creek between High School Road and the Pennsylvania Turnpike,” Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Regional Director Joseph A. Feola said.

A DEP water quality specialist was dispatched to the site and reported seeing an estimated 10,000 dead fish, mostly minnows. The wastewater released contained a high level of ammonia, which quickly robbed the stream of dissolved oxygen. A MOPAC spokesman said a motor burned out in a pump station that handles the plant's wastewater, causing the waste to back up and eventually spill into the creek.

Downstream water suppliers were notified of the impact, as well as the Montgomery County Health Department. The health department recommended that the public avoid recreational activity in that stretch of Skippack Creek. ❖

East Falls, Philadelphia Stormwater Management Plan

The Philadelphia neighborhood of East Falls is a unique community and a useful stormwater laboratory because it is located on a hillside above a river and has a diverse set of landscapes, land uses, residents, and features. The project was planned and conducted to be a model for other riverside communities looking to improve their quality of life as well as environmental quality by creating new green public amenities that also help manage stormwater runoff.

Maps were created depicting existing conditions, constituencies, land uses, and other facts on the ground. They helped identify optimal places for further investigation. Images of existing progressive stormwater-managing interventions from across the country were paired with images of places in East Falls where similar ideas could be implemented. Based on the analysis, 5 sites were selected for further investigation. A public meeting was held to ask residents about their visual and design preferences while educating them about stormwater management. Concept designs based on their ideas were devised for the 5 sites. The concepts imagine vibrant, green futures that include stormwater-managing interventions and physical improvements.

Concept designs by Philadelphia University Landscape Architecture students depicted how improvements could better manage stormwater. A rain barrel competition offered innovative designs in an effort to make rain barrels more desirable to homeowners. The "social marketing" perspective on how to change societal norms (making a pitch to induce a desired change in behavior) was explored throughout the planning process by surveying residents. An important goal of the plan is to get residents of East Falls to be early adopters/advocates of techniques for managing stormwater on their properties.



Recommendations:

- 1) **Rapid Response** - Add rain barrels and a flowering planter at the SEPTA station demonstrating how to harvest/manage rainwater while greening East Falls.
- 2) **Residential Priorities** - Through design and social marketing, make rain barrels a more appealing and desirable household item. Also, enhance the green strips along sidewalks, and encourage the community to care for them by promoting tree plantings and better communication/enforcement aimed at picking up dog waste.
- 3) **Public Priorities** - Design and build a green, traffic-calming and stormwater-managing streetscape along Midvale Avenue that highlights the different parts of the corridor but ties it together through a thoughtful, consistent design. Undertake a site planning study of the SEPTA train station that contemplates new pedestrian and traffic circulation within a vibrant stormwater-managing landscape.

For more information contact Gina Synder, Director of the East Falls Development Corporation at 215-848-8084 or at ginasnyder@eastfallsdevelopment.org. ❖

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 13, 2007	Schuylkill River Festival @ Pottstown Riverfront Park
Oct. 16-18, 2007	Villanova Stormwater Symposium
Oct. 30, 2007	SAN Annual Workshop @ MCCC
Nov. 8, 2007	SAN Planning Meeting @ EPA
Nov. 14, 2007	SAN Agricultural Meeting in Reading
Dec. 13, 2007	SAN Planning Meeting @ EPA

Ideas for the Next Edition ?

Contact

Chuck Kanetsky

kanetsky.charles@epa.gov

215-814-2735

Schuylkill River Festival - October 13, 2007

9 am to 6 pm

Pottstown Riverfront Park

- ♦ Fine art
- ♦ Crafts
- ♦ Kids' activities
- ♦ Music
- ♦ Food
- ♦ Special programs on kayaking and geo-caching
- ♦ Bring your bike and ride the trail
- ♦ Scarecrow contest



5 to 9 pm

101 College Drive, Pottstown

- ♦ YWCA Art Show
- ♦ Scenes of the Schuylkill Reception
- ♦ Buy a calendar
- ♦ Food

For additional information:

<http://www.schuylkillriver.org/Detail.aspx?id=1545> ❖



SAN Annual Workshop - October 30, 2007

Save the Date!

10 am to 3:30 pm

Montgomery County Community College - West Campus

Please join us for the latest on SAN efforts in:

- ♦ Abandoned mine drainage
- ♦ Agricultural runoff
- ♦ Land protection
- ♦ Pathogens
- ♦ Stormwater runoff
- ♦ And, a lively discussion of what's working to engage local governments.

Registration Information Coming Soon At:

<http://www.schuylkillactionnetwork.org> ❖